THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

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An ADDRESS *to the* CONVENTION *of the* COLONY *and* ANCIENT DOMINION *of* VIRGINIA, *on the subject of government in general, and recommending a particular form to their consideration: By a native of this colony.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN deſpotiſm had diſplayed her banners, and with unremitting ardour and fury ſcattered her engines of oppreſſion through this wide extended continent, the virtuous oppoſition of the people to its progreſs relaxed the tone of government in almoſt every colony, and occaſioned in many inſtances a total ſuſpenſion of law. Theſe inconveniencies, however, were natural, and the mode readily ſubmitted to, as there was then reaſon to hope that juſtice would be done to our injured country; the ſame laws, executed under the ſame authority, ſoon regain their former uſe and luſtre; and peace, raiſed on a permanent foundation, bleſs this our native land.

But ſince theſe hopes have hitherto proved deluſive, and time, inſtead of bringing us relief, daily brings forth new proofs of Britiſh tyranny, and thereby ſeparates us further from that reconciliation we ſo ardently wiſhed; does it not become the duty of your, and every other Convention, to aſſume the reins of government, and no longer ſuffer the people to live without the benefit of law, and order the protection it affords? Anarchy and riot will follow a continuance of its ſuſpenſion, and render the enjoyment of our liberties and future quiet at leaſt very precarious.

Preſuming that this object will, ere long, engage your attention, and fully perſuaded that when it does it will be conſidered with all the candour and deliberation due to its importance, I have ventured to collect my ſentiments on the ſubject, and in a friendly manner offer them to your conſideration. Should they ſuggeſt any hints that may tend to improve or embelliſh the fabric you are about to erect, I ſhall deem myſelf happy in having contributed my might to the benefit of a people I eſteem, and a country to which I owe every obligation.

Taking for granted, therefore, the neceſſity of inſtituting a government capable of affording all the bleſſings of which the moſt cruel attempts have been made to deprive us, the firſt inquiry will be, which of the various forms is beſt adapted to our ſituation, and will in every reſpect moſt probably anſwer our purpoſe.

Various are the opinions of men on this ſubject, and different are the plans propoſed for your adoption. Prudence will direct you to examine them with a jealous eye, and weigh the pretenſions of each with care, as well as impartiality. Your, and your children's welfare depends upon the choice. Let it therefore neither be marked by a blind attachment to ancient prejudices on the one hand, or a reſtleſs ſpirit of innovation on the other.

Although all writers agree in the object of government, and admit that it was deſigned to promote and ſecure the happineſs of every member of ſociety, yet their opinions, as to the ſyſtems moſt productive of this general benefit, have been extremely contradictory. As all theſe ſyſtems are ſaid to move on ſeparate and diſtinct principles, it may not be improper to analyſe them, and by that means ſhew the manner of their operations.

Government is generally divided into two parts, its *mode or form of conſtitution*, and the *principle* intended to direct it.

The ſimple forms of government are deſpotiſm, monarchy, ariſtocracy, and democracy. Out of theſe an infinite variety of combinations may be deduced. The abſolute unlimited controul of one man deſcribes *deſpotiſm*, whereas *monarchy* compels the Sovereign to rule agreeable to certain fundamental laws. *Ariſtocracy* veſts the ſovereignty of a ſtate in a few nobles, and *democracy* allows it to reſide in the body of the people, and is thence called a popular government.

Each of theſe forms are actuated by different *principles*. The ſubjects of an unlimited deſpotic Prince, whoſe will is their only rule of conduct, are influenced by the principle of *fear*. In a monarchy limited by laws the people are inſenſibly led to the purſuit of *honour*, they feel an intereſt in the greatneſs of their Princes, and, inſpired by a deſire of glory, rank, and promotion, unite in giving ſtrength and energy to the whole machine. Ariſtocracy and democracy claim for their principle *public virtue*, or a regard for the public good independent of private intereſt.

Let us inquire from which of theſe ſeveral ſtocks we ſhould take a cion to ingraft on our wild one, ſee which is moſt congenial to our ſoil, and by the extent and ſtrength of its branches beſt calculated to ſhelter the people from the rage of thoſe tempeſts which often darken the political hemiſphere. I will not deny, whatever others may do, that individuals have enjoyed a certain degree of happineſs under all theſe forms. Content, and conſequently happineſs, depend more on the ſtate of our minds than external circumſtances, and ſome men are ſatisfied with fewer enjoyments than others. Upon theſe occaſions the inclinations of men, which are often regulated by what they have ſeen and experienced, ought to be conſulted. It cannot be wiſe to draw them further from their former inſtitutions than obvious reaſons and neceſſity will juſtify. Should a form of government directly oppoſite to the ancient one, under which they have been happy, be introduced and eſtabliſhed, will they not, on the leaſt diſguſt, repine at the change, and be diſpoſed even to acts of violence in order to regain their former condition. Many examples in the hiſtory of almoſt every country prove the truth of this remark.

What has been the government of Virginia, and in a revolution how is its ſpirit to be preſerved, are important queſtions. The better to diſcuſs theſe points, we ſhould take a view of the conſtitution of England, becauſe by that model our's was conſtructed, and under it we have enjoyed tranquillity and ſecurity. Our anceſtors, the Engliſh, after contemplating the various forms of goverment, and experiencing, as well as perceiving, the defects of each, wiſely refuſed to reſign their liberties either to the ſingle man, the few, or the many. They determined to make a compound of each the foundation of their government, and of the moſt valuable parts of them all to build a ſuperſtructure that ſhould ſurpaſs all others, and bid defiance to time to injure, or any thing, except national degeneracy and corruption, to demoliſh.

In rearing this fabric, and connecting its parts, much time, blood, and treaſure, were expended. By the vigilance, perſeverance, and activity of innumerable martyrs, the happy edifice was at length completed under the auſpices of the renowned King William in the year 1688. They wiſely united the hereditary ſucceſſion of the Crown with the good behaviour of the Prince; they gave reſpect and ſtability to the legiſlature, by the independence of the Lords, and ſecurity, as well as importance, to the people, by being parties with their Sovereign in every act of legiſlation. Here then our anceſtors reſted from their long and laborious purſuit, and ſaw many good days in the peaceable enjoyment of the fruit of their labours. Content with having provided againſt the ills which had befallen them, they ſeemed to have forgot, that although the ſeeds of deſtruction might be excluded from their conſtitution, they were, nevertheleſs, to be found in thoſe by whom their affairs were adminiſtered.

Time, the improver, as well as deſtroyer, of all things, diſcovered to them, that the very man who had wrought their deliverance was capable of purſuing meaſures leading to their deſtruction. Much is it to be lamented, that this magnanimous Prince, aſcending a throne beſet with uncertainty and war, was induced, by the force of both, to invent and practiſe the art of *funding* to ſupply his wants, and create an intereſt that might ſupport him in poſſeſſion of his Crown. He ſucceeded to his wiſh, and thereby eſtabliſhed a monied intereſt, which was followed by levying of taxes, by a hoſt of tax-gatherers, and a long train of dependents on the Crown. The practice grew into ſyſtem, till at length the Crown found means to break down thoſe barriers which the conſtitution had aſſigned to each branch of the legiſlature, and effectually deſtroyed the independence of both Lords and Commons. Theſe breaches, inſtead of being repaired as ſoon as diſcovered, were, by the ſupineneſs of the nation, permitted to widen by daily practice, till, finally, the influence of the Crown pervaded and overwhelmed the whole people, and gave birth to the many calamities which we now bewail, and for the removal of which the united efforts of America are at this time exerted.

Men are prone to condemn the whole, becauſe a part is objectionable; but certainly it would, in the preſent caſe, be more wiſe to conſider, whether, if the conſtitution was brought back to its original ſtate, and its preſent imperfections remedied, it would not afford more happineſs than any other. If the independence of the Commons could be ſecured, and the dignity of the Lords preſerved, how can a government be better formed for the preſervation of freedom? And is there any thing more eaſy than this? If placemen and penſioners were excluded a ſeat in

either Houſe, and elections made triennial, what danger could be apprehended from prerogative? I have the beſt authority for aſſerting, that with theſe improvements, added to the ſuppreſſion of boroughs, and giving the people an equal and adequate repreſentation, England would have remained a land of liberty to the lateſt ages.

Judge of the *principle* of this conſtitution by the great effects it has produced. Their code of laws, the boaſt of Engliſhmen and of freedom; the rapid progreſs they have made in trade, in arts and ſciences; the reſpect they commanded from their neighbours, then gaining the empire of the ſea; are all powerful arguments of the wiſdom of that conſtitution and government, which raiſed the people of that iſland to their late degree of greatneſs. But though I admire their perfections, I muſt mourn their faults; and though I would guard againſt, and caſt off their oppreſſion, yet would I retain all their wiſe maxims, and derive advantage from their miſtakes and misfortunes. The teſtimony of the learned Monteſquieu in favour of the Engliſh conſtitution is very reſpectable. "There is (ſays he) one nation in the world that has for the direct end "of its conſtitution political liberty." Again he ſays, "It is not my "buſineſs to examine whether the Engliſh actually enjoy this liberty or "not; ſufficient it is for my purpoſe to obſerve, that it is eſtabliſhed "by their laws, and I inquire no further."

This conſtitution, and theſe laws, have alſo been thoſe of Virginia, and let it be remembered, that under them ſhe flouriſhed and was happy. The ſame principles which led the Engliſh to greatneſs animates us. To that principle our laws, our cuſtoms, and our manners, are adapted, and it would be perverting all order to oblige us, by a novel government, to give up our laws, our cuſtoms, and our manners.

However neceſſary it may be to ſhake off the authority of arbitrary Britiſh dictators, we ought, nevertheleſs, to adopt and perfect that ſyſtem, which England has ſuffered to be ſo groſſly abuſed, and the experience of ages has taught us to venerate. This, like almoſt every thing elſe, is perhaps liable to objections, and probably the difficulty of adopting a limited monarchy will be largely inſiſted on. Admit this objection to have weight, and that we cannot in every inſtance aſſimulate a government to that, yet no good reaſon can be aſſigned why the ſame *principle*, or ſpirit, may not in a great meaſure be preſerved. But, honourable as this ſpirit is, we daily ſee it calumniated by advocates for popular governments, and rendered obnoxious to all whom their artifices can influence or delude. The ſyſtems recommended to the colonies ſeem to accord with the temper of the times, and are fraught with all the tumult and riot incident to ſimple democracy; ſyſtems which many think it their intereſt to ſupport, and without doubt will be induſtriouſly propagated among you. The beſt of theſe ſyſtems exiſt only in theory, and were never confirmed by the experience, even of thoſe who recommend them. I flatter myſelf, therefore, that you will not quit a ſubſtance actually enjoyed, for a ſhadow or phantom, by which, inſtead of being benefited, many have been miſled and perplexed.

Let us examine the principles they aſſign to their government, and try its merits by the unerring ſtandard of truth. In a late pamphlet it is thus ſtated: The happineſs of man, as well as his dignity, conſiſts in virtue; *if there be a form of government, then, whoſe principle is virtue, will not every ſober man acknowledge it better calculated to promote the general happineſs of ſociety than any other form.* Virtue is the principle of a republic, therefore a republic is the beſt form of government.

The author, with what deſign I know not, ſeems to have cautiouſly blended *private* with *public* virtue, as if for the purpoſe of confounding the two, and thereby recommending his plan under the amiable appearance of courting *virtue*. It is well known that *private* and *public* virtue are materially different. The happineſs and dignity of man I admit conſiſts in the practice of *private* virtues, and to this he is ſtimulated by the rewards promiſed to ſuch conduct. In this he acts for himſelf, and with a view of promoting his own particular welfare. *Public* virtue, on the other hand, means a diſintereſted attachment to the public good, excluſive and independent of all private and ſelfiſh intereſt, and which, though ſometimes poſſeſſed by a few individuals, never characteriſed the maſs of the people in any ſtate. And this is ſaid to be the principle of democratical governments, and to influence every ſubject of it to purſue ſuch meaſures as conduce to the proſperity of the whole. A man; therefore, to qualify himſelf for a member of ſuch a community, muſt diveſt himſelf of all intereſted motives, and engage in no purſuits which do not ultimately redound to the benefit of ſociety. He muſt not, through ambition, deſire to be great, becauſe it would deſtroy that equality on which the ſecurity of the government depends; nor ought he to be rich, leſt he be tempted to indulge himſelf in thoſe luxuries, which, though lawful, are not expedient, and might occaſion envy and emulation. Should a perſon deſerve the eſteem of his fellow citizens, and become popular, he muſt be neglected, if not baniſhed, leſt his growing influence diſturb the equilibrium. It is remarkable, that neither the juſtice of Ariſtides, or the bravery of Themiſtocles, could ſhield them from the darts of envy and jealouſy; nor are modern times without examples of the ſame kind.

To this ſpecies of government every thing that looks like elegance and refinement is inimical, however neceſſary to the introduction of manufactures, and the cultivation of arts and ſciences. Hence, in ſome ancient republics, flowed thoſe numberleſs ſumptuary laws, which reſtrained men to plainneſs and ſimilarity in dreſs and diet, and all the miſchiefs which attend Agrarian laws, and unjuſt attempts to maintain their idol equality by an equal diviſion of property.

Schemes like theſe may be practicable in countries ſo ſteril by nature as to afford a ſcanty ſupply of the neceſſaries, and none of the conveniences, of life; but they can never meet with a favourable reception from people who inhabit a country to which Providence has been more bountiful. They will always claim a right of uſing and enjoying the fruits of their honeſt induſtry, unreſtrained by any ideal principles of government, and will gather eſtates for themſelves and children without regarding the whimſical impropriety of being richer than their neighbours. Theſe are rights which freemen will never conſent to relinquiſh, and after fighting for deliverance from one ſpecies of tyranny, it would be unreaſonable to expect they ſhould tamely acquieſce under another.

The truth is, that men will not be poor from choice or compulſion, and theſe governments can exiſt only in countries where the people are ſo from neceſſity. In all others they have ceaſed almoſt as ſoon as erected, and in many inſtances been ſucceeded by deſpotiſm, and the arbitrary ſway of ſome uſurper, who had before perhaps gained the confidence of the people by eulogiums on liberty, and poſſeſſing no property of his own, by moſt diſintereſtedly oppoſing depredations on that of his neighbours.

The moſt conſiderable ſtate in which the ſhadow of democracy exiſts (for it is far from being purely ſo) is that of the united provinces of Holland, &c. Their territories are confined within narrow limits, and the exports of their own produce very inconſiderable. Trade is the ſupport of that people, and, however ſaid to be conſiderable, will not admit of luxury. With the greateſt parſimony and induſtry, they, as a people, can but barely ſupport themſelves, although individuals among them may amaſs eſtates. I own they have exhibited to mankind an example of perſeverance and magnanimity that appeared like a prodigy. By the profits of their trade they maintained large armies, and ſupported a navy equal to the firſt in their day of warfare; but their military ſtrength, as well as the form of their government, have long ſince given way. Their navy has dwindled into a few ſhips of war, and their government into an ariſtocracy, as unhappy and deſpotic as the one of which we complain.

The ſtate of Venice, once a republic, is now governed by one of the worſt of deſpotiſms. In ſhort, I do not recollect a ſingle inſtance of a nation who ſupported this form of government for any length of time, or with any degree of greatneſs; which convinces me, as it has many others, that the principle contended for is ideal, and a mere creature of a warm imagination. [*The remainder in our next.*]

Meſſ. DIXON & HUNTER.

GENTLEMEN, NEABSCO furnace, *May* 15, 1776.

AS it is through the channel of your gazette that thoſe who are guilty of crimes inimical to this once happy, though now much oppreſſed and injured country, are juſtly held up to public contempt, ſo it is through the ſame channel that thoſe who are innocent of crimes, falſely and maliciouſly laid to their charge, are as publicly acquitted. You will be pleaſed, therefore, to inſert the encloſed reſolution of the committee of Prince William relative to my conduct in your next gazette, and oblige, Gentlemen, your moſt obedient ſervant,

THOMAS LAWSON.

PRINCE WILLIAM *county, in* COMMITTEE *the 6th day of May*, 1776.

FOUSHEE TEBBS, *Eſq; in the Chair.*

THOMAS LAWSON, Gentleman, appearing before this committee, agreeable to a reſolve of the committee of the 3d of April laſt, to anſwer reſpecting his conduct in the ſale of a parcel of flour to a certain Logan and Gilmour, alſo relative to his importing ore from Maryland into this colony under permits, and alſo relative to a veſſel laden with corn, lately ſeized by ſome of the miniſterial veſſels, and

having examined John Price Poſey, Lawrence Gallahue, Traverſe Naſh, David Ward, and Samuel Peachy, Gentlemen, it is the unanimous opinion of this committee that the ſaid Thomas Lawſon is altogether blameleſs in his conduct with reſpect to the aforeſaid charges, and that there is not the ſmalleſt foundation for any reflection on his character.

Extract from the minutes.

EVAN WILLIAMS, clerk.

HAGUE, *February* 18.

WE learn from Caſſel, that the firſt column of Heſſian troops, which is taken into the pay of Great Britain, was to ſet out on their march from Bremen the 15th inſtant, at which place they are to take the oath of fidelity to his Britannic Majeſty, after which they will embark on board the Engliſh tranſports in the Wezer.

LONDON, *January* 20.

THE Canadian merchants now in London, have applied to Government, to know if they mean to ſend forces in the ſpring to drive the Americans out of that province. They have received for anſwer, that they may reſt aſſured that an armament will be ſent to Canada early in the ſpring.

Jan. 25. Lieutenant General Elliot, Colonel of the 15th or King's light dragoons, is appointed Governor of Gibraltar, in the room of General Cornwallis, deceaſed.

Beſides the men of war now fitting out at Chatham for the North American ſtation, the Repulſe, Capt. Davies, the Carrysfort, Fanſhaw, and Flora, Briſben, all frigates of 32 guns, are getting ready with the greateſt deſpatch.

Feb. 29. Perſons are going to Glaſgow to contract for ſhipping, bedding, &c. to carry over 3000 troops to America, who are to embark at Port Glaſgow.

To prevent the tranſports being taken by the ſmall provincial privateers, orders are given to the ſurveyor of the navy, that none be taken up under 300 tons, and theſe alſo to have ſix 9 pounders upon deck for their defence.

Extract of a letter from CADIZ, *January* 21.

"On the 17th of this inſtant, a veſſel of about 400 tons burthen, and mounting 10 guns, arrived laden with corn, and it was ſoon after underſtood, that ſhe was an American veſſel, and was come purpoſely to endeavour to trade with the Spaniards, at this port, but it was hindered by the commiſſioners, who immediately ſent for the Engliſh Conſul, and in two days after the arrival of the veſſel notice was give to the commander, Samuel Martin, that he could not be permitted to trade there, nor in any other of the Spaniſh ports, as orders had been ſent from Madrid to the contrary, and gave the Captain notice to depart accordingly; which he directly complied with."

March 2. The Generals Gage and Burgoyne are both to return to America to their reſpective commands, in a very ſhort time.

This week the following forces are to be agreed to in Council to be ſent to America this ſpring: Heſſians, 12,000, Brunſwickers, 4000, Walders, 2000, Britiſh, 37,000; total 55,000.

The treaty with the Duke of Brunſwick was ſigned by Col. William Fawcitt, the 6th of January, 1775. By this treaty 3964 men are taken into the pay of Great Britain; alſo, 336 light cavalry, diſmounted. Half to be ready to march the 13th of February, and to arrive at the place of embarkation the 25th; the other half to begin their march the laſt week in March; levy money to be paid to the Duke thirty crowns each, at 4s. 6d. ⅓. The King to pay the Duke a ſubſidy of 64,500 German crowns a year, while in pay; and double that for two years after the troops return.

The treaty with the Landgrave of Heſſe, was ſigned at Caſſel, by the ſame Gentleman, the 13th of January; by it 12,000 Heſſians are hired; a part to begin their march the 27th of February, and the remainder within four weeks after; twenty crowns banco to be paid for levy money for each man; the ſubſidy to be 45,000 crowns banco, per annum, at 4s. 9d. ⅓. The treaty to continue at leaſt one year after the troops arrive back in the dominions of Heſſe.

That with the Count of Hanau was ſigned the 5th of February, for 668 infantry to begin to march the 20th of March. Levy money thirty crowns; the annual ſubſidy to be 35,000 crowns.

It is calculated that the enſuing campaign againſt the American colonies will coſt Great Britain at leaſt four millions.

Several of Sir Peter Parker's fleet, which ſ[ailed] from Corke the 12th ult. we learn, were ſeen bearing away for Li[verpool], having loſt main top maſts, ſails, &c. and it is imagined that moſt [of] the men of war had got into the above place.

March 12. It is reported that his Majeſty will go to Portſmouth to take a ſurvey of the fleet before they ſail for America.

The officers who are ordered for America are to wear the ſame uniform as the common ſoldiers, and their hair to be dreſſed in like manner, ſo that they may not be diſtinguiſhed by the rifle-men, who aim particularly at the officers.

The Deal Caſtle man of war (that loſt all her maſts and put into Falmouth in January laſt) and the Carysfort man of war, from Portſmouth, both bound to America, put into Plymouth the 14th inſtant by contrary winds.

The Ferret ſloop of war, commanded by Captain Rodney, is ſaid to have overſet at ſea, and every ſoul loſt.

Yeſterday General Sir John Worteſly and Sir George Oſborne ſet out for Chatham, to embark there with their regiments for America.

Accounts from Liſbon, by way of France, aſſert, as a fact, that the King of Portugal was aſſaſſinated, and that when the account came away the capital and the whole nation was in the utmoſt diſorder and confuſion.

WATERTOWN, *May* 20.

FRIDAY laſt Captain Muckford, belonging to Marblehead, took and carried into Boſton, a ſhip from Ireland. Her cargo conſiſts of ſeventy five tons of powder, 1000 ſtand of arms, a number of travelling carriages for heavy cannon, a quantity of entrenching tools, ſome dry goods, and ſome proviſions. She is eſtimated to be worth between 40 and 50,000l. ſterling.

BOSTON, *May* 13.

WE learn by the extracts from the St. James's Chronicle, of the nineteenth of March, inſerted in the Halifax gazette, that Gen. Burgoyne was to ſail for Quebec with ten thouſand troops, and retake it if in the hands of the rebels, and then proceed to Montreal, St. John's, &c. That General Gage and Lord Howe, with ſeven thouſand troops, were to join General Howe at Boſton, at which place it is ſuppoſed there is eight thouſand. Gage to remain as Governor of Maſſachuſetts, while the Generals Howes are to attack and beat the rebels from their poſts; they are then to ſecure their embarkation and proceed to New York, land there, and occupy Hudſon's river, and proceed up and join General Burgoyne from Quebec, and eſtabliſh a chain of forts round New England. Alſo that one hundred ſail of frigates and ſloops of war are to line our coaſt (it is ſaid three deep) to cut off all communication between the colonies. That the above troops are to be Heſſians, who enter into pay before they march, and Hanoverians and Britiſh; the foreign States are ſubſidized for two years after the troops ſhall be returned to their own land again, if ever that ſhould be.

Laſt Saturday week the brave Captain Mugford, commander of the armed ſchooner Franklin, after ſeeing his prize ſafe into Boſton harbour, was going out again, but the tide making againſt him, he came to an anchor off Pudding Gut Point; the next morning by day break the ſentry ſaw 13 boats from the men of war making for them, they got ready to receive them before they could board the ſchooner; ſhe ſunk five of the boats, and the remainder attempting to board, they cut ſeveral of the crews hands off as they laid them over the gunwale. The brave Captain Mugford making a blow at the people in the boats with a cutlaſs, he received a wound in the breaſt, on which he called his Lieutenant, and ſaid "I am a dead man, don't give up the veſſel, you will be able to beat them, if not, cut the cable, and run her on ſhore." He expired in a few minutes; the Lieutenant then run her on ſhore, and the boats made off, the men that were taken up from the boats that ſunk, ſay they loſt 70 men. The ſchooner had but one man killed beſides the Captain.

A letter from Boſton, dated laſt Monday, ſays, Captain Mugford ſevered the man's head from his body at one blow, who wounded him, and that 100 men at leaſt were drowned and killed in the boats; and that the ſchooner's crew conſiſted of no more than 30 men.

On Wedneſday the 15th inſtant, was launched at Providence, the continental ſhip America, of 32 guns, eſteemed a very fine veſſel.

The Cerberus frigat watered at Block Iſland on Sunday the 12th inſt. and chaſed ſome fiſhing boats into Newport this day week.

The brig that was conſort with the Cerberus is ſaid be ſailed for Halifax, with three prizes; ſome of them ſaid to be from France.

SPEECH of his Excellency JOHN RUTLEDGE, Esq; President and Commander in Chief of the colony of *South Carolina*, delivered to both Houses of Assembly at *Charlestown*, the 11th of *April*, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly.

IT has afforded me much satisfaction to observe, that though the season of the year rendered your meeting very inconvenient, your private concerns, which must have suffered greatly by your long and close application in the late Congress, to the affairs of this colony, requiring your presence in the country; yet, continuing to prefer the public weal to ease and retirement, you have been busily engaged in framing such laws as our peculiar circumstances rendered it absolutely necessary to be passed before your adjournment. Having given my assent to them, I presume you are now desirous of a recess.

On my part, a most solemn oath has been taken, for the faithful discharge of my duty: On your's, a solemn assurance has been given to support me therein. Thus a public compact between us stands recorded. You may rest assured, that I shall keep this oath ever in mind. The constitution shall be the invariable rule of my conduct; my ears shall be always open to the complaints of the injured; justice in mercy shall neither be denied or delayed; our laws and religion, and the liberties of America, shall be maintained and defended to the utmost of my power. I repose the most perfect confidence in your engagement.

And now, *Gentlemen*, let me entreat, that you will, in your several parishes and districts, use your influence and authority to keep peace and good order, and procure strict observance of, and ready obedience to the law. If any person therein are still strangers to the nature and merits of the disputes between Great Britain and the colonies, you will explain it to them fully, and teach them, if they are so unfortunate not to know, their inherent rights. Prove to them, that the privilege of being tried by a jury of the vicinage, acquainted with the parties and witnesses; of our being taxed only with our own consent, given by their representatives, freely chosen by, and sharing the burthen equally with themselves, not for the aggrandizing a rapacious Minister, and his dependent favourites, and for corrupting the people, and subverting their liberties, but for such wise and salutary purposes as they themselves approve; and of having their internal polity regulated, only by laws consented to by competent judges of what is best adapted to their situation and circumstances, equally bound too by those laws, are INESTIMABLE, and derived from that constitution which is the birth-right of the poorest man, and the best inheritance of the most wealthy. Relate to them the various unjust and cruel statutes which the British Parliament, claiming a right *to make laws for binding the colonies in all cases whatsoever*, have enacted, and the many sanguinary measures which have been, and are daily pursued and threatened, to wrest from them those invaluable benefits, and to enforce such an unlimited and destructive claim. To the most illiterate it must appear, that no power on earth can, of right, deprive them of the hardly earned fruits of their honest industry, toil, and labour: Even to them, the impious attempt to prevent many thousands from using the means of subsistence, provided for man by the bounty of his Creator, and to compel them, by famine, to surrender their rights, will seem to call for Divine vengeance. The endeavours, by deceit and bribery, to engage barbarous nations to embrue their hands in the innocent blood of helpless women and children, and the attempts, by fair, but false promises, to make ignorant domesticks subservient to the most wicked purposes, are acts at which humanity must revolt.

Shew your constituents, then, the indispensable necessity which there was for establishing some mode of government in this colony; the benefits of *that*, which a full and free representation has established; and that the consent of the people is the origin, and their happiness the end of government. Remove the apprehensions with which honest and well-meaning, but weak and credulous minds may be alarmed; and prevent ill impressions by artful and designing enemies. Let this be known, that this constitution is but temporary, till an accommodation of the unhappy differences between Great Britain and America can be obtained; and that such an event is still desired, by men who yet remember former friendships, and intimate connections; though, for defending their persons and properties, they are stigmatized and treated as rebels.

Truth, being known, will prevail over artifice and misrepresentation. Conviction must follow its discovery. In such case, no man, who is worthy of life, liberty or property, will, or can, refuse to join with you in defending them to the last extremity; disdaining every sordid view, and the mean paltry considerations of private interest and present emolument, when placed in competition with the liberties of millions; and seeing that there is no alternative but absolute unconditional submission, and the most abject slavery, or a defence becoming men born to freedom, he will not hesitate about the choice. Although superiour force may, by the permission of Heaven, lay waste our towns, and ravage our country, it can never eradicate, from the breasts of freemen, those principles which are engrafted in their very nature. Such men will do their duty, neither knowing or regarding consequences; but, submitting them, with humble confidence, to the Omniscient and Omnipotent Arbiter and Director of the fate of empires, and trusting that his Almighty Arm, which has been so signally stretched out for our defence, will deliver them in a righteous cause.

The eyes of Europe, nay of the world, are on America. The eyes of every other colony are on this: A colony whose reputation, for generosity and magnanimity, is universally acknowledged. I trust, therefore, it will not be diminished by our future conduct; that there will be no civil discord here, and that the only strife amongst brethren will be, who shall do most to serve, and to save an oppressed and injured country.

JOHN RUTLEDGE.

LONDON, *February* 21.

ADMIRAL Greaves has been arrived in London these six days, but he is smuggled from common eyes, till he is properly prepared to be gazed upon.

Upon an average, the ships of war now equipping for America have not more than six seamen to ninety others in their complements.

The armament carrying on by Spain grows every day more serious. All the nerves of that vast monarchy, from Barcelona to the Havannah, have been exerted during two years to prepare a force which the people of this country considers without the least degree of anxiety: And yet it is well known, that by June next the King of Spain will be able to send 26 sail of the line, from 60 to 84 guns, 14 frigates, from 36 to 50 guns, and 40,000 land forces to sea. What such a force would be able to do against Ireland, while all the power of this country is exerted, and perhaps in vain, in North America, may be easily imagined.

February 22. Lord Howe is invested with unlimited military powers, which, it is said, he positively demanded previous to his accepting the chief command of the King's forces in America.

Orders are given from the ordnance office for immediately taking down, and preparing for service, six thousand stand of arms, from the small armoury in the tower.

Yesterday evening a young recruit, who had been enlisted in the country for a soldier when in liquor, in order to prevent his going to America, at a public house near Chelsea, with a large carving knife, chopped off his left thumb and two fore fingers.

A new regiment of light infantry is now raising to be sent to America; a serjeant in the said regiment, in a new uniform, was presented to his Majesty on Friday last, and went through the whole exercise on an entire new plan, before his Majesty and several general officers, in the King's riding house, which gave universal satisfaction.

In the debate on Tuesday night, in the House of Commons, on Mr. Fox's motion, Col. Barre was extremely severe on a law officer (Mr. Wedderburne) whom he compared to Abbe Polignac, and described him as a little, pert, affected, political prater. The comparison was felt, and caused a laugh; he said, that it was difficult to express the feelings and indignation of a man of honour, stung and irritated by the gnats and insects of court corruption. He affirmed, that the troops, from a fixed aversion to the service, *grossly misbehaved* at Bunker's hill on the 17th of June.

General Burgoyne, in contradiction, allowed that the troops gave way a little at one time, because they were flanked by the fire out of the houses, &c. at Charlestown, but that they soon rallied and advanced; and no men on earth ever behaved with more spirit, firmness, and perseverance, till they forced the enemy out of their entrenchments. He said, he was an eye witness of the whole affair, and consequently, as he spoke from his own knowledge, and not by hearsay, he ventured to speak with the greatest confidence.

All the transports that have arrived here from Boston are to be docked and got ready as soon as possible, in order to take on board a quantity of porter and other fresh supplies, which are to be sent to the men of war stationed at America.

A letter from the Hague, dated February 16, says, "It is said that the Amsterdamers have not only consented to cede the Scotch brigade in the Dutch service to Great Britain, but have proposed to the States of Holland that it should never return to this country any more."

Orders are ſent to Corke to get ready immediately proviſions for victualling fifty ſail of tranſports which will arrive there, if the wind permits, by the 10th of March; the reſt of the tranſports which are ordered for America will take in their proviſions in England, to prevent the Iriſh from being diſtreſſed by ſo great a conſumption of the neceſſaries of life in that country.

The King has given orders to put a ſtop to any of the officers belonging to the three regiments of guards ſelling out; ſo that thoſe who diſlike the buſineſs of going to America, though they have purchaſed their commiſſions at high premiums, can only reſign.

The value of goods entered for exportation to the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands the laſt month, at the cuſtomhouſe, exceeds the ſum of 62,000l. which is more than have been entered for ſome time paſt.

[*The following copy of a proclamation was taken from a manuſcript enclоſed in a letter from North Carolina, and is inſerted to ſhew our readers what ſort of* COMMISSIONERS *we are to expect. Our troops, however, in that province being in good ſpirits, as well as ſufficient in point of number, we may venture to predict that* CLINTON *and his* COMMISSIONERS *will be* TREATED *very roughly.*]

By Major General CLINTON, commander of his Majeſty's forces in the ſouthern provinces of NORTH AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a moſt unprovoked and wicked rebellion hath for ſome time paſt prevailed, and doth now exiſt, within his Majeſty's province of North Carolina, and the inhabitants (forgetting their allegiance to their Sovereign, and denying the authority of the laws and ſtatutes of the realm) have, in a ſucceſſion of crimes, proceeded to the total ſubverſion of all lawful authority, uſurping the powers of government, and erecting a tyranny in the hands of Congreſſes and Committees of various denominations, utterly unknown and repugnant to the ſpirit of the Britiſh conſtitution; and divers people, in avowed defiance to all legal authority, are now actually in arms, waging unnatural war againſt their King; and whereas all attempts to reclaim the infatuated and miſguided multitude to a ſenſe of their errour have unhappily proved ineffectual: I have it in command to proceed forthwith againſt all ſuch men, or bodies of men in arms, and againſt all ſuch Congreſſes and Committees thus unlawfully eſtabliſhed, as againſt open enemies to the State. But, conſidering it a duty inſeparable from the principle of humanity firſt of all to forewarn the deluded people of the miſeries ever attendant upon civil war, I do moſt earneſtly entreat, and exhort them, as they tender their own happineſs, and that of their poſterity, to appeaſe the vengeance of an injured and juſtly incenſed nation, by a return to their duty to our common Sovereign, and to the bleſſings of a free government, as eſtabliſhed by law; hereby offering, in his Majeſty's name, free pardon to all ſuch as ſhall lay down their arms and ſubmit to the laws, excepting only from the benefit of ſuch pardon Cornelius Harnett and Robert Howe. And I do hereby require, that the Provincial Congreſs, and all Committees of Safety, and other unlawful aſſociations, be diſſolved, and the judges allowed to hold their Courts according to the laws and conſtitution of this province; of which all perſons are required to take notice, as they will anſwer the contrary at their utmoſt peril.

Given on board the Pallas tranſport, in Cape Fear river, in the province of North Carolina, the 5th day of May, 1776, and in the ſixteenth year of his Majeſty's reign.

H. CLINTON.

By command of General Clinton.
RICHARD KEAVE, Secretary.

To the Magiſtrates of the province of North Carolina, to be by them made public.

TAKEN up, in *Buckingham*, a BAY MARE about 4 Feet 4 Inches high, about 7 Years old, paces very well, has two Saddle Spots on her near Side, a large white Blotch on the off Side, and ſeveral Spots. Poſted, and appraiſed to 10l. ‖ ROBERT BAGBY.

TAKEN up, in *James City*, a brindled STEER, two Years old, marked with two Crops, and a Hole in the left Ear. Poſted, and appraiſed to 50s. JOHN SHAYE.

TAKEN up, in *Mecklenburg*, a SORREL ROAN MARE about 9 or 10 Years old, with a white Streak down her Face, is about 4 Feet 7 Inches high, her hind Feet white, and branded on the near Shoulder O. Poſted, and appraiſed to 8l. ‖ GEORGE TERRY.

TAKEN up, in *Bedford*, a SORREL MARE about 6 or 7 Years old, 4 Feet 7 Inches high, with a light Mane and Tail, a large Star, and a ſmall Blaze almoſt to her Noſtrils. Snip on her Lip, ſeveral Saddle Spots, and branded on the near Shoulder P. Poſted, and appraiſed to 8l. ‖ ADAM LINN.

HALIFAX *Town, North Carolina, April* 19, 1776.

For SALE, on moderate Terms, and long Credit,

SUNDRY Tracts and Parcels of LAND lying in this Province, *viz.* One Tract in *Tryon* County, commonly called the *Great Cove*, containing 6000 Acres of as fine Land as any in the Province, is within 60 Miles of *Salisbury*, a Town of conſiderable Trade. Alſo about 2000 Acres in ſaid County, on *Chintal* Run, equally as good as the former, both noted for the Goodneſs of Range. One Tract in *Orange* County, within 9 Miles of *Hillſborough*, containing 340 Acres, very good for Corn, wheat, or Tobacco. One Tract in *Bute* County, on *Shocco* Creek, within 40 Miles of *Halifax* Town, containing about 3000 Acres. As fine Tobacco may be made on this Land as any in the World, and it is excellent for Corn or Wheat, with enough cleared, and in good Order, to work twelve Hands. Alſo about 5000 Acres more in different Parts of ſaid County, very good for Tobacco or Grain. Likewiſe 4000 Acres in this County, within 15 Miles of *Halifax* Town, which is very good for Grain, and excellent Range for Stock of all Kinds. Alſo a Tract within 4 Miles of *Edenton*, ſituate on *Albemarle* Sound, commonly called *Mayley*'s Point, containing 2200 Acres, good for Tobacco or Grain, and very convenient to Shipping, with good Improvements thereon, and cleared Land ſufficient to work 20 or 30 Hands. Alſo ſundry other Tracts in *Northampton*, *Bertie*, and *Martin* Counties, ſituate on navigable Rivers, and very good for Grain. Likewiſe Houſes and Lots, well improved, in *Halifax* Town, *Campbelton*, and *Newbern*.

Any Perſon inclinable to purchaſe any of the ſaid Tracts of Land, or Houſes and Lots, may know the Terms by applying to the Subſcriber. The above Lands, *&c.* belong to the Eſtate of *Joſeph Montfort*, deceaſed, and to be ſold by

(6) HENRY MONTFORT, Executor.

TO BE SOLD,

THE Houſes and Lots wherein the Subſcriber now lives, in the Town of *Peterſburg*, conſiſting of a large Dwelling-Houſe, Storehouſe, and all convenient Outhouſes, in good Repair; a large Garden and Paſture adjoining, and the Situation equal to any in the Colony for Buſineſs. It is ſo well known, that a particular Deſcription is unneceſſary. Alſo a few Houſe Servants, Houſehold Furniture, *&c.* a Lot in the Town of *Peterſburg*, and 400 Acres of good Tobacco Land in *Charlotte*. The Purchaſers may have Poſſeſſion immediately, and the Payment made eaſy by giving approved Security.——As I intend leaving the Colony, thoſe who have any Demands againſt me are deſired to apply for Payment; and all Perſons indebted, it is hoped, will either diſcharge their Accounts, or think it reaſonable to give Security.

As the Purchaſers of the Land in *Ward's Fork*, belonging to *John Lidderdale*, Eſq; of *London*, are in ſome Doubt of their having a Right, this is to inform them, that the Deeds will be ſent, properly executed, with an Acknowledgment of Mrs. *Lidderdale*'s Right of Dower, when the Times will admit of an Opportunity, and may be aſſured of having a moſt undoubted Title made them. They will likewiſe pleaſe to obſerve, that the Deeds will not be recorded till the Money is paid, agreeable to the Terms of Sale. And if any of the Purchaſers are in Doubt of my being properly authoriſed to make Sale of the Lands, they may be fully ſatisfied at the Secretary's Office, where the Power of Attorney is recorded. (12‖) RICHARD HANSON.

RUN away from the Vineyard, a little below *Williamſburg*, a Negro Man named SAUNDY, 5 Feet 6 Inches high, about 27 Years old, knock kneed; had on, when he went away, a dark red *Newmarket* Coat. I have been informed he is lurking about *Williamſburg*. Whoever brings him to me ſhall have 15s. Reward, beſides what the law allows. tf ANDREW ESTAVE.

A GOOD PRICE GIVEN FOR

CLEAN LINEN RAGS,

By the Printers of this Gazette.

THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

HARTFORD, *May* 20.

BY Captain David Hawley, who came to town laſt Saturday, from Halifax, we have the following intereſting intelligence, viz.

At Halifax is the Chatham of 50 guns, Orpheus of 34 guns, Scarborough, Glaſgow, and Roſe, of 20 guns, the Kingfiſher, Tamer, and another of 16 guns, an armed brig, two ſchooners, and two ſmall ſloops, and a number of tranſports: The Tamer and Glaſgow are ſent home to refit. On the 24th of April the Niger frigat of 32 guns, with two ſhips and a brig, having on board 700 troops, ſailed for Quebec. Five tranſports arrived at Halifax from the Weſt Indies with troops. From the beſt information there was about 8 or 9000 troops at Halifax before any were ſent away. On the 24th a packet arrived from England, with accounts that about three regiments were loſt on their paſſage to America, *and no more*. That they intend to make their ſtrongeſt efforts at Quebec and New York. To open the communication from one to the other, and to cut off all communication of the New-England colonies with the ſouthern.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 23.

THIS afternoon, about two o'clock, his Excellency General Waſhington arrived in this city, from New York.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the army at Dechambeau, 48 *miles above* QUEBEC, *May* 9, 1776.

" I have juſt time, by an expreſs that goes to New York, to acquaint you of our unfortunate, and, I muſt add, diſgraceful retreat; the circumſtances of which, as far as I am able, I will inform you of. When I arrived within 9 miles of Quebec, with the ſix companies of our regiment, I was hailed by an officer on board of a veſſel belonging to us, and informed that our whole army was retreating with the utmoſt precipitation, and adviſed to retreat with the regiment as faſt as poſſible, which you muſt be well aſſured I could not think of doing unleſs abſolutely obliged to it. I then immediately put to ſhore, and ordered the regiment to wait my orders before they moved from that place. I accordingly ſet out, and ran for about 6 miles, meeting the roads full of people ſhamefully flying from an army that appeared by no means ſuperior to our ſtrength. The General and officers halted here, and held a council of war, to determine whether they ſhould ſtop the troops, and engage the enemy. It was determined almoſt unanimouſly againſt the propoſal, although I was of opinion, from the beſt accounts I received from the officers, that the Britiſh troops might have been driven back into the town. In vain was every argument of diſgrace attending a retreat urged. They had determined not to make a ſtand till they got to the mouth of the Sorel; but a letter coming from General Arnold, promiſing a reinforcement of men and cannon, they determined to wait here until an officer could return, who was ſent to Montreal by General Thomas. The fleet is arrived at Quebec. A frigate of 36 guns, a ſhip of 20 guns, or upwards, and a ſchooner taken from us, have ſailed up the river as far as this place, and remained here two days. They landed eight boat loads of men, about four miles off, who were obliged to embark by a party of the rear, before a party of 150 men, that we marched from hence, could get up with them."

Two of the continental fleet ſailed from Newport this week, in order to cruiſe in Boſton bay.

Twenty four Indians, the chiefs of ſeveral nations, were at New York on the 20th ult. from Albany, on their way to Philadelphia, in order to wait on the Honourable Continental Congreſs.

By expreſs juſt arrived at New York from Boſton, we have the following important intelligence, viz. That the continental armed ſchooner the Franklin, commanded by Capt. Mugford, on the 17th inſtant, took and carried into Boſton, a ſhip from England, about 300 tons burthen, mounted with 6 carriage guns. She left England the 14th of April, in company with 9 ſail of tranſports under convoy of a frigat, bound for Boſton, not having an idea of the precipitate flight of General Howe. She had on board,

1500 barrels of powder copper hooped, 1000 carbines with bayonets, 1000 cartouch boxes, 1000 ſlings, 5 ſpare travelling carriages, 8 travelling handſpikes for ditto, 84 handſaws, 5000 buſhel ſand bags, 5000 half buſhel ditto, 100 mantlets of cured hides, 144 broad axes, 50 hand hammers, 300 felling axes, 500 hand hatchets, 500 hand bills, 268 wheel-barrows, 150 hand ditto, 1000 common ſpades, 250 ditching ditto, 750 ſhod ſhovels, 250 iron ditto, a quantity of tarred and white rope, carpenters and joiners tools of all kinds. The powder, arms, &c. were ſafely landed before the expreſs left Boſton.

WILLIAMSBURG, *June* 8.

WE learn, by expreſs from North Carolina, that about 1300 of General Clinton's men were landed under cover of the ſhipping; likewiſe, that a troop of horſe, who were ſent out to watch the enemy's motions, had fallen in with a party of them, killed four, and forced the reſt to retire with precipitation.

Yeſterday afternoon an expreſs came in from General Lee, with advice that the fleet is gone from Cape Fear; that it was the prevailing opinion they were bound to South Carolina, though General Lee thinks it is moſt likely they are coming round to this colony.

It is an undoubted fact that all the Tories that were in Lord Dunmore's ſervice have left him, there not being above half the fleet now at Gwyn's iſland; where they are gone to is uncertain. This, it is imagined, was occaſioned by a fever which has raged with great fury amongſt them for ſome time paſt, and from the funeral proceſſions that have been ſeen there, very probably has proved fatal to ſome perſons of diſtinction.

The piratical veſſel commanded by Bartlet Goodrich is taken, and himſelf and ten others made priſoners. She mounts four carriage guns, and had on board a quantity of Weſt India produce, ſome gunpowder, ſmall arms, and a number of other very uſeful articles.

Meſſ. DIXON & HUNTER.

DINWIDDIE *Courthouſe, May* 28, 1776.

A COMPLAINT being lodged againſt Richard Hanſon, and others, for having wilfully violated an order of the Continental Congreſs reſpecting the late FAST, the culprits perſonally appeared this day before the committee, and of their own accords made the moſt humble conceſſions for their contemptuous behaviour on that ſolemn occaſion. For further particulars, we beg leave to refer to the encloſed memorial and confeſſion annexed, both which you are requeſted to inſert in your gazette, at the joint expence of the ſaid delinquents; and you will oblige

MANY.

To the Chairman and members of the committee for Dinwiddie county; the memorial of RICHARD HANSON, *of the town of Peterſburg, Sheweth,*

THAT your memorialiſt has heard, with much concern, that he ſtands charged before this committee with having wilfully violated an order of the Hon. Continental Congreſs, for the obſervation of Friday the 17th inſtant (May) as a ſolemn FAST DAY.

Your memorialiſt moſt ſolemnly declares, that at the time of his giving the invitation to his neighbours, which has excited againſt him the ſaid complaint, he did not recollect that it was the day ſet apart for that purpoſe, until it was ſo late in the day that he apprehended his countermanding the invitations might be ſuppoſed to ariſe rather from a want of hoſpitality than a religious attention to the appointed ſolemnity; and as he was conſcious of having no deſign or deſire to contravene either that, or any other order of the Hon. Aſſembly, he truſted that the moſt favourable conſtruction would be put upon an act attended with no mark of feſtivity, or productive of diſorder or licentiouſneſs.

Your memorialiſt begs leave further to aſſure this committee, that he has, ſince his firſt reſidence in this colony, been conſtantly obedient to the laws and regulations ordained in it; and more particularly, ſince the commencement of the late unhappy diſputes, between the colonies and the parent ſtate, he has firmly reſolved, in no inſtance, to give offence to the inhabitants of a country where he has enjoyed all the benefits ariſing to individuals in a well regulated ſociety, and experienced the friendſhip of many worthy members of it, his utmoſt wiſh being to acquire the character of a peaceable and inoffenſive citizen.

Under this circumſtance of inattention, and inadvertency as to the offence committed, and his hearty contrition for the ſame, he hopes this committee will reſt ſatisfied of the innocence of his intentions, and believe him when he declares, that he will neither, by word or deed, give cauſe for complaint in future; and that he will, in all inſtances, conform himſelf to the regulations that have been already made, or may hereafter be marked out, for the inhabitants of this colony. And moſt ſincerely wiſhes for a return of that peace and tranquillity which has heretofore prevailed in Virginia, in which he has paſſed the happieſt part of his life; and that the preſent conteſt may be ended with honour and advantage to the United Colonies of America. RICHARD HANSON.

WE the ſubſcribers, who partook of a dinner at Mr. Hanſon's on the day mentioned in his memorial, ſeriouſly declare, that it

was done inadvertently, and not with design, as has been suggested, to counteract the order of the Hon. Continental Congress. We further acknowledge, that we are heartily sorry for not strictly attending to that and every other order of that Hon. Assembly; and solemnly engage, in future, so to conduct ourselves as to give no offence to the inhabitants of this colony, nor in any instance whatsoever again neglect to comply with every order of the Continental Congress, or the ordinances of the Convention of this colony hereafter made or now ordained.

WILLIAM BUCHANAN. WILLIAM BEATTIE.
A. JOHNSTON. A. BUCHANAN.
THOMAS IRVING.

FOUND, by a Negro Servant of the Subscriber's, at *Bland*'s Ordinary, in *Prince George*, a TWO POUND BILL. Whoever claims it within three Months from the Date hereof, and properly describes the Bill, shall have it delivered on paying the Charge of this Advertisement, otherwise I shall deliver 35s. to the Negro who found it. [*June* 6, 1776.] (2) THOMAS FENNER.

To be SOLD, *for ready Money, to the highest Bidder, at my* STORE *in* GLOUCESTER *County, on* THURSDAY *the* 13*th Instant (if fair, otherwise next fair Day)*

A QUANTITY of *German* OSNABRUGS, TICKLINGBURGS, CHECKS, SHEETINGS, WHITE LINENS, LEATHER BREECHES, HATS, WRITING PAPER, CARPENTERS TOOLS, NARROW HOES, COFFEE, SNUFF, and a great Number of other Articles, too tedious to mention.

M. ANDERSON, Junior.

☞ I have about 1500 Weight of BAR IRON, which will likewise be sold that Day, if not before.

WHEREAS, some Time in 1774, or 1775, I gave Mr. *Stephen Willis* a conditional Note of Hand for fifteen Pounds, and as the greatest Part of the Money is paid, and the Condition hath never been complied with, I think it expedient to caution the Public against taking an Assignment of the same.

D. TRUEHEART.

TO BE SOLD,

A TRACT of LAND in the lower End of *Goochland*, near Col. *Syme*'s, *Rocky Mill*, containing 412 Acres, whereon is a good Dwelling-House, with three Rooms below, and two above, two Brick Chimnies, and three Fire Places below, plastered, *&c.* also a good Store-House, Kitchen, Stable, *&c. &c.* There has been 8 or 10 Hands worked on the Plantation, to Advantage.——Also a Tract of Land in the lower End of *Cumberland*, containing about 260 Acres, near Mr. *Benjamin Harris*'s, in the *Manekin* Town, whereon is a new Dwelling-House, with two Rooms below, *&c.* Five or eight Hands may be worked thereon to Advantage. The Ground tended in Corn will be sowed in Wheat the ensuing Fall, if required. Possession may be had on or about *Christmas* next. The above Lands will be sold on long Credit, if required, but much cheaper for ready Money, or short Credit. For Terms apply to the Subscriber, near *Cumberland* Courthouse.

(‖) EDMUND LOGWOOD.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

RUN away from the Subscriber, in *Suffolk*, in the Night of *Wednesday* the 4th Instant *(June)* a *Dutch* Servant Man named JOHN CHARLES KITTLER, who is a Breeches-Maker by Trade, but may pass for a Tailor; he is about 5 Feet 6 or 7 Inches high, and about 23 Years of Age, slender made, of a fair Complexion, and had long yellow Hair; speaks good *French*, and several other Languages, but bad *English*. He professes himself a great Showman, and pretends to all Sorts of Music, though is not proficient in any. He had on a *Virginia* Copperas striped Coattee, Leather Breeches, and ribbed Stockings, and carried other Clothes with him.------Whoever delivers the said Servant to me in *Suffolk* shall have the above Reward, or 40s. if secured so that I may get him again, and immediate Information given me thereof.

‖ CASPER HERRITER.

ABOUT five Weeks since my Horse was taken from me at *Suffolk*, by Order of Col. *Bullit*, and sent Express to *Cobham*, and from thence, I am informed, by Order of an Officer there, upon some Business to *Williamsburg*, where he was lost. He is a black Horse, has a white Spot on his Forehead, and a small one on or near his Rump, which proceeded from a Wound; he is 14½ Hands high, has a Switch Tail and roached Mane, is a natural Pacer, goes light and quick over the Ground, and so free and easy that he is certainly a most agreeable Horse to a Practitioner of Physic, and as such I would give a very genteel Reward to any Person who will bring him to me. I have forgot whether he is branded or not. SAMUEL COHOON.

TO BE SOLD, for ready Money, at *Amelia* Courthouse, on *Thursday* the 27th Instant *(June)* being Court Day, a Parcel of Ivory handled Swords, elegantly mounted with Silver, also a Number of the best Kind of Rifles, with Bullet Moulds, *&c.* by

(1‖) BENJAMIN WARD.

To be sold, or rented for one or more Years,

A PLANTATION in *Cumberland* County, containing 225 Acres of exceeding good LAND. There is on the Land a new Dwelling-House, with eight Rooms, and a Fire Place in each, and other convenient Houses; likewise a very fine young Orchard of 200 bearing Apple Trees. This Place is an exceeding good Situation for an Ordinary, and will suit either for that or a private Family. There was about 15 Bushels of Wheat sowed last Fall, and about 80,000 Hills of Corn, now growing on the Land, which any Person may have with the Land. For Terms apply to the Subscriber, adjoining the Premises.

(‖) WILLIAM HOBSON.

FOR SALE,

THE following Tracts of LAND in *Buckingham* County, *viz.*— 3270 Acres near the Fork of *Slate* and *James* Rivers, which is very good and level, with about 100 Acres of it cleared, about 200 bearing Apple Trees, and as good a Range as any in the Colony. Three Hundred and seven Acres within Half a Mile of the Courthouse; 400 Acres within two Miles of the Courthouse; 328 Acres on *Appamattox* River, and 200 Acres on *Payne*'s Creek.——Likewise two Tracts in *Cumberland* County, containing 200 Acres each, having about 60 Acres cleared on each of them, pretty good Orchards, and the Land very good.——The Land will be laid off in Lots, as will suit the Purchasers, and the Time of Payment will be made easy. I will take young Negroes in Part Payment. Whoever are inclined to purchase may apply to the Subscriber, in *Cumberland* County.

(‖) JOSEPH CALLAND.

RUN away from the Subscriber, on the 24th Ult. a likely NEGRO GIRL about 16 Years of Age, named ESTHER, formerly the Property of Mr. *Miles King* of *Hampton*. She has lost a Joint of one of her Fingers of her right Hand, had on a blue Plains Jacket, and a Negro Cotton Coat. I will give 20s. if she is taken up within 20 Miles of this City, and if at a greater Distance 40s. and delivered to me in *Williamsburg*. JOHN SHIPHARD.

TAKEN up, in *Cumberland*, a BLACK HORSE about 11 Years old, 4 Feet 5 or 6 Inches high, has a Blaze Face, a Snip on his Nose, his near hind Foot white, has lost his right Eye, and is branded on the off Shoulder M. Posted, and appraised to 7l.

(‖) CARY HARRISON.

TAKEN up, in *Louisa*, a Middle sized red and white STEER about 5 Years old, with a Swallowfork in each Ear, the Points of his Horns sawed, or cut off. Posted, and appraised to 55s.

‖ MOODY JENNINGS.

TAKEN up, near the Meadow Bridges in *Henrico*, a BLACK MARE about 4 Feet 6 Inches high, about 11 Years old, has several Saddle Spots on her Back, a few white Hairs in her Forehead, and branded on the near Shoulder ↄH in a Piece. The Owner may have her on proving his Property, and paying Charges.

JOSHUA STORRS.

TAKEN up, [illegible]ingham, a BLACK HORSE about five or six Years old, [illegible]eet high, with a small white Spot in his Fore-head, trots and ga[illegible] Branded on the Shoulder and Buttock AL in a Piece, and had on [illegible]ll Bell. Also a brown HEIFER about three Years old, unmark[illegible] Posted and appraised, the Horse to 4 l. and the Heifer to 35s.
‖ FLAMSTEED RANSONE.

THE Colle[illegible] of WILLIAM & MARY has been lately clea[illegible], and will be immediately plastered and white-washed, to render it [illegible] for the Reception of the Professors, Students, Grammar Scholars, an[illegible]ervants; and the several Schools will be opened at the Beginning of Tr[illegible]y Term.
EMMANUEL JO[illegible], Clk.

WILLIAMSBURG, *June* 2, 1776.

LEFT in the Necessary House at the *Raleigh*, *Monday* last, a SILVER STOP WATCH, Maker's Name *Prentis*, LONDON, No. 112, with two Seals set in Gold, one of them a Cypher, the other a Coat of Arms. Whoever delivers them to the Printers, or the Bar-Keeper at the *Raleigh*, shall have forty Shillings.

I WILL give 7d½ *per* lb. for BACON, and 4 l. *per* Bar[illegible] for PORK, delivered in *Williamsburg*; or at the College or Capitol Landings; and 6d½ *per* lb. for BACON delivered any where within 100 Miles of *Williamsburg*, provided I have 2000 Weight delivered at any one Place. I shall continue to give these Prices till I give Notice to the contrary in the Gazette. (2‖) JOHN HA[illegible]KINS.

WILLIAMSBURG, *June* 2, 1776.

ONE or two Journeymen Tailors who understand their Business well, will meet with Encouragement by applying to SEVERINUS DUDLEY.

I INTEND to leave the Country immediately.
‖ EDWARD WIATT.

To be SOLD *at public Auction, pursuant to the last Will and Testament of Maj.* JOHN BICKERTON, *deceased, on* FRIDAY *the* 5th *of* JULY *next, on the Premises,*

THE Land and Plantation whereon he formerly lived, in the County of *Hanover*, containing about 600 Acres, with a good Dwelling-House, all convenient Outhouses, and good Orchards. The Land is very rich, and well timbered, situate about four Miles above *Hanover* Town. Twelve Months Credit will be allowed the Purchaser, on giving Bond, with approved Security, to LEWIS WEBB, Surv. Exec'r.
N. B. Mrs. *Martha Irwin* has Dower in this Land. (5‖)

STRAYED from *Williamsburg*, a bay Mare, two Years old, near 14 Hands high, a hanging Mane and Switch Tail, shod before, trots naturally, and had a Bell on.——Whoever delivers her to Mr. *William Cole*, Junior, shall have 10s. Reward.
2‖ WILLIAM MAS[illegible]COR.

ROSEGILL, *May* 21, 1776.

WHEREAS a Report hath prevailed, in Consequence of a Gentleman's coming to ROSEGILL with an Intention of purchasing KING HEROD, if his Terms were accepted, that the Horse was purchased; which Report gaining Credit, hath hindered many Gentlemen from sending their Mares: This therefore is to let the Public know, that the Horse will continue to stand here and cover Mares during the Continuance of the Season. (2)

TO BE SOLD,

A PLANTATION in *Henrico* County, where the Subscriber now lives, containing between 3 and 400 Acres of Land, pleasantly situated, about two Miles and a Half from *Richmond* Town, whereon is a commodious Dwelling-House, Kitchen, Smokehouse, Dairy, Garden, Barn, Stable, Chair-House, an Overseer's House, and a Negro Quarter. The Purchaser may have long Credit, on paying Interest, and may have immediate Possession of the Houses, with a Pasture, and of the Plantation as soon as the Crop is finished. GEORGE DONALD.

FOUR very stout good MULES to be sold, or exchanged for able Plough Horses or Mares that will suit the Mountain Lands. Inquire of Mr. *William Russell, Williamsburg.*

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

DESERTED from my Company of the 7th Regiment of *Virginia* Forces, at *Gloucester* Courthouse, on the 15th Day of *April* last, JOSEPH HASKINS, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, stout robust made, of a swarthy Complexion, and wears his own dark Hair.——Also, EPHRAIM TURPIN, a Lad about 17 or 18 Years old, about 5 Feet 9 Inches high, of a fair Complexion, wears his own Hair, and is very indifferently dressed, without Shoes or Stockings. He was taken up some Time ago, and underwent a Trial by a Court-Martial at *Williamsburg*, agreeable to whose Sentence he received 15 Lashes for the same Offence, and was ordered to join his Company, which he has failed to do. I will give 5 l. Reward for *Haskins*, and 50s. for *Turpin*, to any Person who will deliver them safe at *Gloucester* Courthouse. CHARLES FLEMING.

CHARLES CITY, *May* 13, 1776.

FOR Sale, or exchange for Land not exceeding 50 Miles above the Falls of the River, 400 Acres on *James* River, on which I now live; also 300 Acres about 2 Miles from the River.-------Those Persons who have not settled their Accounts are desired to call at the Store and have them settled by Bond, or at least acknowledge the Debt. ROBERT WALKER.

A VALUABLE Library of Books to be sold. For a Catalogue, and Terms, apply to the Printers. (4)

COMMITTED to *Spotsylvania* Gaol, a Negro Woman who says her Name is MARY-ANNE, and that she belongs to Mr. *Walker* of *Petersburg*. The Owner is desired to prove his Property, pay Charges, and take her away.
‖ JACOB WHITLER, Gaoler.

RUN away, on *Tuesday* the 19th Instant, three *Virginia* born Negro Men Slaves, the Property of Col. *John Fry*'s Estate, *viz.*—HARRY, about 5 Feet 8 Inches high, well made, yellow Complexion, has a Scar on his Face, is a sensible artful Fellow, and about 30 Years old.——YORK, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, a stout, likely, well made Fellow, black Complexion, one of his Legs smaller than the other, has a Scar on one of his Arms, occasioned by a Burn, and about 26 Years old.——ADAM, about 5 Feet 7 Inches high, yellow Complexion, thin visaged, bushy Hair, and about 40 Years old. It is impossible to describe the Clothes they carried with them, having different Kinds. Whoever will deliver the above mentioned Slaves to Mr. *Richard Adams*, in *Richmond* Town, Mr. *Thomas Adams*, in *New Kent*, Mr. *Henry Fry*, in *Culpeper*, or to the Subscriber in *Buckingham*, shall be paid 40s. for each of them. (tf) JOHN NICHOLAS.

FIFTEEN DOLLARS REWARD.

RUN away from the Subscriber in *Spotsylvania*, near *Carr's* Bridge, on *Sunday* the 5th Instant *(May)* two Negro Fellows, namely, GABRIEL and BEN. They rode off a likely bright Bay Horse about 15 Hands high, branded on the near Buttock 69, has a short Neck, and one of his hind Feet white. *Gabriel* is yellowish, about 5 Feet 8 Inches high, bandy legged, has had a Sore on one of them, which leaves a Lump upon his Shin, near the Size of a small Hen Egg, has been a waiting Boy, is sensible and talkative, and 19 Years old. *Ben* is about 5 Feet 11 Inches high, near 30 Years of Age, stoops in his Walk, has very thick Lips, a gloomy Look, stammers in his common Discourse, and if spoke to unexpectedly, cannot return an immediate Answer. He has, till lately, gone by Water on *Pamunkey*, *York*, and *Mattapony* Rivers, on all which he is well acquainted, from the highest Warehouses downwards. He has a Wife at Col. *John Snelson*'s in *Hanover*, where he may be lurking, but I rather suspect they will endeavour to get on Board some of the Governor's fleet. I will give twelve Dollars Reward for securing the Negroes in Gaol, so that I get them again, or six Dollars for each, and three Dollars for the Horse, with all reasonable Charges for bringing them Home. (6) ROBERT HART.